Tuticorin port; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण का गठन

2617. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण गठित करने का निर्णय लिया था, यदि हां, तो यह निर्णय कब लिया गया और इस संबंध में अभी तक क्या कार्यवाही की गयी है, और

(ख) क्या उपर्युक्त प्राधिकरण का गठन कर लिया गया है, यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और इसका गठन कब तक कर लिये जाने की संभावना है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर): (क) तथा (ख) जी हां। संसद के एक अधिनियम, नामतः भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण अधिनियम, 1988 (1988 का 68) के अधीन भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण का गठन पहले ही दिनांक 15.6.1989 को किया जा चुका है।

Prevention of Accidents involving vehicles Transporting Dangerous Materials

2618. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the National Road Safety Council would be called to discuss ways and means to prevent road accidents, involving vehicles transporting dangerous materials and liquids;

(b) if so, what is the schedule of the proposed meeting;

(c) whether State Governments would be consulted on this subject; and

(d) the details of immediate measures proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) to (d) : The Meetings of the National Road Safety Council are held once in a year and the last Meeting was held on 22nd December, 1994. The *State Governments are time and again* consulted in framing rules relating to Road Safety aspects and other issues including those relating to accidents involving vehicles transporting dangerous materials. The State Governments have recently been addressed to strengthen the measures for implementation of rules regarding transportation of dangerous and hazardous material.

Development and Widening of National Highways in Gujarat

2619. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided for development and widening of national highways in Gujarat during the last two years and that proposed to be provided during the next financial year;

(b) the number of national highways in the State taken up so far for development maintenance and repairs and the progress made in this regard; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The details are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Year	Amount allocated for development of NHs.
1.	1993-94	63.50
2.	1994-95	56.50
3.	1995-96	46.00 (proposed)

(b) and (c) Development, maintenance and repairs of National Highways is a continuous activity and works are taken up in various States including Gujarat in a phased manner keeping in view certain factors such as intensity of traffic, *inter-se* priority of works and availability of funds.

Full Utilization of waterways

2620. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Natural waterways not fully utilised" as reported in 'Statesman' dated the 30th January, 1995;

(b) if so, whether Government have put in only a few transport vessels on waterways;

(c) if so, the reasons for not fully utilising the waterways;

(d) whether schemes were also made to allow private entry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As far as Government is concerned, Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd., Calcutta (a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Surface Transport) is operating all their cargo vessels in National Waterways No. 1 (the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system), and 2 (the Brahmaputra).

The Government of India is primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of National Waterways, through Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). The IWAI has schemes to develop these waterways for full utilisation in phases, depending on cargo offering.

(d) to (e) The National Waterways can be used by any private operator. Besides, the IWAI has introduced incentive schemes to promote inland water transportation by private operators.

Declaration of New National Highways in Gujarat

2621. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals for declaring new national highways in Gujarat; if so, which roads are proposed to be declared as natioal highways;

(b) which roads would be declared as national highways in Gujarat during the 8th Five Year Plan; and

(c) the probable time when such roads are to be declared as national highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The Government of Gujarat has forwarded ten proposals aggregating to a length of 2510 km. for declaring as new Naional Highways in the 8th Five Year Plan. However, owing to meagre allocation of funds for National Highways during the Eighth Plan, it is difficult to decalre new National Highways in any State including Gujarat at this point of time.